Mr. & Mrs. McComb elected as Principals of Woodstock
Reasons therefor

RECEIVED
NOV 7 1896
DR. GILLESPIE.

Jullundur City N. India
Oct. 7th 1896.

Rev. J. Gillespie D.D. Sec'y Bd F.M.

Dear Bro.

In my letter of Sept. 21st. it was mentioned that the Board of Directors would hold a meeting soon to appoint a successor to Miss Giddings. The meeting was held on Sept. 30th, and Mr. & Mrs. McComb appointed joint principals, subject of course, to confirmation, by the Mission.

I shall now explain the circumstances which have led to this action.

At a meeting of the Directors held at Ludhiana Dec. 12th 1895 the following resolution was adopted. "The Principal is requested to consider the practicability of abolishing the system, by which pupils are required to report their own faults and delinquencies."

This system of daily reports, which may have answered very well in Mt. Holyoke, though we hear it has been abolished there, was thought by the members both of the Board of Directors and of the Mission generally, to be unsuited to a school in India,

where, in view of the prevalent atmosphere of falsehood in which children are born & reared, the system seems to us to be practically putting a premium on lying.

Miss Giddings however took a different view of the subject, & the system of "Reports" has been maintained.

The Board has not taken any further action in regard to this matter, but some of its members have ventured on private expostulations, and Miss Giddings replies that if the matter were pressed, she would consider it her duty to withdraw from the School. About two months ago, I wrote, asking what her decision was finally, in regard to returning after her furlough next year, as this point must have an important bearing on the appointment of her successor. If she were intending to return, which we all desired, one of the teachers might officiate as principal during her absence: if not, we must make arrangements of a more permanent character.

In a letter dated August 9th, Miss Giddings writes as follows: —

"In regard to your question what stands in the way of my returning, I think the matter may be summed up in three points of which I must be assured before I could think it best or wise to return. 1st, that I be allowed to bring my sister back with me

if it seems best to do so.

"2nd That what I consider suitable arrangements be made for the school in its various departments during my absence.

"3rd That I be allowed to act according to my judgment and knowledge of the needs of the School in regard to its internal arrangements; While I shall be glad to follow the advice of others, so far as it is practicable, I believe that the one most intimately connected with the school is the only one who can decide such matters."

This was a shock to my sensibilities, as you may imagine. Unless the Mission and Directors, not to say the Board of Missions, are prepared to abdicate their functions so far as Woodstock is concerned, it becomes necessary to make arrangements for the principalship, with Miss Giddings left out.

Her ultimatum does not even name the single point of difference which has arisen between her and the Directors, but lays down the principle of absolute autocracy on her part, as the only condition on which she can remain. We have therefore submitted to the inevitable, not without regret, for Miss Giddings has our esteem, in a high degree.

When the Board met there were four candidates nominated, or rather six, — two single & two double.

They were, Mrs. Forman senior of Lahore, Mrs. J. Newton of Allahabad, Mr. & Mrs. Andrews of the Farrukhabad Mission, and Mr. & Mrs. McComb. Miss Mitchell also was considered. I need not enter into a lengthened description of the considerations which led to the result named above. We thought on the whole that the extremely onerous duties of the principalship rendered it most desirable to appoint a married couple, while Mr. McComb's not knowing the vernacular and being engaged in the editorship of the "Standard" which he could take with him, renders it comparatively easy to transfer him to a field where we believe his own marked abilities & his wife's many admirable qualities, will afford them both a better opportunity to do much good, than they could have at Ambala.

I trust Woodstock will be more of a <u>mission</u> school and also more of a missionary school under their management, than it has ever been before.

I hope to send you a statement in regard to financial and other matters connected with Woodstock soon.

Yours Sincerely
C. B. Newton
President Board of Directors of Woodstock.

Woodstock

Reply of the Board of Directors of Woodstock to Dr. Gillespie's letter of June 15th, 1897.

RECEIVED
SEP 28 1897
DR. GILLESPIE.

Jullundur City
Aug. 28th 1897.

C. B. Newton

Dear Bro.

In reply to the above letter, we beg to state that in regard to the apparently large draft on the Board for Woodstock, for the year 1896-7, the ordinary expenses of the school were not so large as they at first appear. The following items which were extras will illustrate what we claim:—

1. Miss Giddings' traveling expenses home,		924. 0. 0.
2. " Carleton's " "	To Paris, £40 =	643. 15. 1.
3. " E. Browne's " "	from Germany	981. 4. 3.
	Total	2549. 3. 4.

These charges were not a part of the regular school expenses. Last year was a very trying year to the people in India & some who would in better times have sent their children to school, did not do so. As a result of this, there was a falling off in the income, from 30,000 rupees, to 27,075 12.3. Hence in addition to extra expenditure, there was a deficit in fees, of 2924.3.9.

Adding these two sums together we have a total of 5473.7.1. Now the total sum drawn from the Board, was. 8,667.2.1. Eliminating the above extras & deficit, we find that 3,193.11.0. was the ordinary expenditure, which at last year's average rate of exchange, is equal to £ 963.6.9. the ordinary ex-

penditure, we mean, of the Board. The case might be made stronger by considering that the school was put to considerable unusual expense last year by the following circumstances: —

1st. The traveling expenses of five new teachers had to be paid, who were employed to fill vacancies caused by the exit of Miss Giddings and her party.

2nd. An unusually large bill for repairs was occasioned by the sanitary regulations of the London military authorities, on account of the existence of the plague in India.

3rd. The famine caused a serious rise in the price of food.

Waiving these points however, we proceed on the assumption that a thousand dollars, in round numbers, is a fair estimate of what the school is likely to require from the Board as a rule. The calculations submitted below are based on this supposition. We do not think it will go beyond this figure very often & have reason to hope that as times improve and the new management has time to gain the confidence of the public, the Board's

expenses in Woodstock will grow less and may even reach the vanishing point.

We now offer the following replies to your questions, taking them seriatim.

Questions of the First series.

Quest 1. "How many daughters of missionaries are in attendance at Woodstock? How many sons, and the ages of the latter?"

Ans. There are nine daughters and six sons. The ages of the latter are respectively 12, 11, 11, 10, 9 & 7.

[In addition to these there are 7 boys & 12 girls from other missions, making a total of 34 missionary children.]

Quest. 2. "... What is the cost of educating one pupil...?"

Ans. Calculating for 100 pupils, on the basis of $1000 from the Board (i.e eliminating last years extras & deficit) the total expense per pupil is Rs. 328 a year, or 27⅓ a month.

[Of this the Board, (at $1000 a year to the School) would be paying Rs 33 a year or Rs. 2 3/4 a month, for each pupil]

Quest. 3. "What objection, if any, can be made to having the Missionaries pay for their children, what it actually costs the Board....?"

Ans. 1st. To do so would be making a somewhat

remarkable, and a seemingly harsh discrimination against Missionaries, and those the missionaries of our Board. In our opinion there is no more reason why our missionaries should be required to pay "what it actually costs the Board", than there is for requiring the parents of other children to do so.

2nd. Since the Board, as shown above, pays 33 rupees a year for each pupil, it might seem that this sum added to the fees now paid for each of our children, would meet the requirements suggested in your question. But it certainly would not. Suppose the 15 Missionary children paid 33 extra each. That would be $15 \times 33 = 495$. The Board would then give $3,314 - 495 = 2819$. Now $\frac{2819}{100} = 28\frac{19}{100}$, and the Board would then be giving $28\frac{19}{100}$ for each child. The question would again be asked, "what objection, if any, &c?" It would on the same principle become necessary now to add $28\frac{19}{100}$ to the unfortunate missionary children's fees again. This further reduction of the Board's burdens would still leave a balance to be divided by 100, and the process thus repeated over & over must necessarily result in transferring the whole

of the pecuniary burden now sustained by the Board, to those Missionaries of the Board, who are so unfortunate as to have children at Woodstock. The 15 children would then be required to pay their present fees 15 each, plus $\frac{3314}{15} \div 9$ (months) $= 24\frac{1}{2}$ which in round numbers comes to Rs 40 a month each. If the Board happens to be called on to pay 2000 dollars instead of 1000 in any particular year, our children ought on the principle under review, to pay 65 rupees a month each.

You will readily see that this principle cannot be carried out to its logical extreme, which is equivalent to saying, it cannot be consistently maintained. In our opinion, we say with all due respect, the principle is wrong and ought not to be maintained at all.

You say that Woodstock is not an eleemosynary institution. There is a slight flavor of unpleasant suggestion in the word, but we think all Mission work may be defined by it, and Woodstock is a Mission School.

We do not suppose the Board would accept the alternative that it is a business speculation.

To Dr. Gillespie,
Aug. 28, 1897}

Probably also, all our Theological Seminaries, in the United States, most of our Colleges, and many of our best schools, are eleemosynary, quite as much as Woodstock is for us.

3rd. Is it not worthy of consideration, that the expenditure of the Board at Woodstock is not increased by the presence of our few children?

The same teaching staff would be required if they were not in attendance, and the same number of servants.

So long as our children pay for their board, and such extras as washing, & conveyance to church, &c. surely the Board will not begrudge us the advantage of free tuition.

Do they pay full board?

"Questions of the Second Series.

Quest. 1. From what classes of society do the pupils mainly come?"

Ans. (1) The majority of the pupils come from the Eurasian and English Community. They are permanent residents of India, & are socially of the middle class.

(2) A small number are children of our Mission, — 15 at present.

(3) A somewhat larger number (19 this year) are

children of the missionaries of other Missions, English, Scotch and German.

(4) There are generally a few Native Christian children of the higher class, at present, only two.

Quest. 2. "What amount of religious education is given?"

Ans. (1). Morning and evening prayers.

(2) On four days of the week, each class has a period of Bible teaching.

(3) The pupils attend Sunday School and the services of the Union Church.

(4) There are Senior + Junior Y.P.S.C.E. which meet regularly on Sunday evenings under the care of teachers.

Quest. 3. "What is the approximate number of conversions for a period of years, say three or five."

Ans. We have heard of cases of conversion, occasionally, but have no record to consult.

One of the directors knows of 7 or 8 cases, and another has taken 5 or 6 into his English Church at Dehra.

We regret our inability to give full particulars, but since Miss Giddings who has been principal the last few years, is now in America, we recommend the Board to ask her for information on this point.

To Dr. Gillespie
Aug. 28, 1897.

Quest. 4. "What is the Calling in life of graduates, so far as known to the Board of Directors."

Ans (1). We have learned from a lady formerly engaged in teaching in Woodstock, that she has traced the careers of at least fifty of the pupils of her own time in the School, who have engaged in Mission work, and we believe that many more have done so before & since.

(2) A larger number still who have married, are known to be exercising a decided Christian influence in their families and in Society. Many of these, scattered in isolated situations where their husbands have Govt. appointments in the Canal, Forest, Salt Revenue and other similar departments, or on tea plantations, where they seldom see other Europeans, are we have reason to believe, exercising a Christian, and therefore evangelistic influence over the natives about them.

(3) Many have been teachers, at least for a time, and we nearly always have several such in Woodstock itself.

This closes the list of questions in your letter, but there are two other points requiring attention.

One of these is contained in the letter to which we have been replying, and the other, in your letter of May 18th, to the Ludiana Mission.

The former relates to the question of our mission children having free instruction in music drawing &c.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors held at Woodstock in July, when all the foregoing points were considered, a study of the school accounts led us to the conclusion that all the expenses of teaching drawing and music, (the only "accomplishments" taken by our children at present,) were fully met by the extra fees received for these subjects from the other pupils, and that it therefore cost the Board nothing to give this instruction to our children.

Since that meeting was held, however, Mr. McCombs has arrived at a different conclusion. He now informs the undersigned, that music & drawing each costs 50 rupees a month more than the income from these special fees.

Since the two conclusions are so far from agreeing, it is impossible for us to report on this point until we have the opportunity of investigating it further.

Supplies to be furnished by the Boards
Allocations, not to be made without reference to the Boards

In the second point it was voted by the Board on May 17th to approve the plan of the boys' annex as an experiment for two years, on the following conditions.

"First, that the annex be used exclusively for the boys of Missionaries ~~of missionaries~~ of our own Missions, the Bd being opposed to any thing looking towards the establishment of a large boys' department connected with Woodstock.

"Second; that it be so conducted as not to interfere with the main purpose for which Woodstock Seminary was founded.

"Third; That the receipts of tuition be large enough to protect the Board against any expense in connection with the experiment, either for the direct support of it, or for the purpose of providing a building in which to conduct it."

The experiment would prove successful we believe, if the first condition did not make it impracticable for us to fulfil the third. We do not think the Board could have realized when authorizing the experiment that the conditions imposed would insure its failure.

Nor do we understand why it should be considered so objectionable to admit boys who do not belong to our missions, while girls who are not of our missions are admitted; especially

To Dr. Gillespie,
Aug. 28, 1897

when these same boys are admitted without
E hesitation, as day scholars. (The fact that we were once extremely blunder does not justify another. E)
If our taking them into the Annex would produce,
or tend to produce the expensive expansion of Woodstock which has been mentioned as an object of
apprehension, we should object to it ourselves.
E But since there is no such expansion (?!) contemplated, we see no objection to it.
On the contrary, we fully approve of it because
the fees paid by such children meet the expenses of the Annex, and without their fees
these expenses cannot be met.
We trust this brief representation will suffice
to induce the Board to withdraw the first con-
E dition. (No!)

Before closing, it is necessary to mention a
conclusion reached by the directors at their
late meeting, in reference to the employment
of trained teachers, for Woodstock.
While we regard it as a matter of the
first importance that the school should be
evangelistic in its aims, it is nevertheless
a matter of indispensable necessity that we
should have teachers who are teachers & not merely missionaries.

To Dr. Gillespie
Aug. 28, 1897.

After several very unsatisfactory experiences in the last few years, we have concluded that with Mr. & Mrs. McComb & Miss Mitchell to represent America & the Mission, we need not ask for another missionary lady from home to supply Miss Davis place, but it would be better to secure the services of a trained teacher from England or Scotland. Such a lady would be less expensive than a Missionary lady from America, and we believe the plan would work well in all respects.

All of which is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors,

By Yours Sincerely

C. B. Newton, President.

P.S. In reference to your surprise at the mission's reducing our childrens fees to 15 rupees, after the Directors had raised them to 20, it is not for us to explain the action of the mission. We therefore leave it to the Mission to do so. Very [illegible] yours [illegible]

C. B. N.

SEP 2 1897
R. GILLESPIE.

Bellmont City
Aug. 30th 1897.

Rev. R. Gillespie D.D. Comments on Woodstock
C. B. Board

Dear Brother,

The accompanying document, replying to your letter of June 15th about Woodstock is long enough without further disquisition, but I must add a few words for myself unofficially.

I wonder what Miss Giddings said in New York to put you & the "Committee of the Council," into such an interrogative mood. I am sure it was something pretty caustic, for I see you think it necessary to apologize for her. She was a little pained, I suspect at our lack of emotion in regard to her leaving us, and you must make allowance for this, in considering her criticisms.

By the way she wrote me a post card a few months ago, demanding to know what I had done with her Report last year, as you had not seen anything of it. I could remember nothing about it, except the bare fact of having received it from her, & told her in reply that I must have forgotten to send it to the Board. Now, however, on looking over my files, I find I did send it to you, embodied in my letter of Oct. 10th 1896, this letter being a report of Woodstock for 1895-6.

To return to the present subject, I am glad the questions were sent to us, whatever unfavorable impressions may have given rise to them, for I am confident the reply we are sending will remove some misapprehensions and give you a more encouraging view of Woodstock.

Whether our prognostications of improved finances when "times get better" and "the new management has time to gain the confidence of the public" are correct, remains to be seen. I believe in Bro. McCombs's energy & ability, but he is not a diplomatist, and every thing has not worked smoothly this summer. But I must warn you of one thing. Do not attach any importance to any thing Miss Davis may tell you about Woodstock or the McCombs. She opposed & thwarted them in every way she could, and her break-down & retirement were an unmixed blessing to the school.

One thing more. Are you determined to kill the Annex? If not, let us try the experiment in our own way. But if the Board want it killed let them say so. It is a good thing, and I cannot imagine why you are all so down on it.

Hoping to write you a station letter soon, I remain with warmest regards, Yours truly

C. B. Eaton

2, I would certainly

Woodstock matters -

RECEIVED
SEP 3 1897
DR. GILLESPIE.

Woodstock, Aug. 3rd 1897.

Miss Cornbell

Dear Dr. Gillespie

I must not longer delay answering your kind letter of June 15th. I have thus far postponed doing so because I felt so puzzled to know how to write. My first impulse was naturally to respond to your invitation to confide in you by telling you all about matters here from my standpoint. I am not sure still but I ought to do so, and yet, whenever I have tried to do it an unconquerable reluctance to be the one to complain of the McCombs has prevented me. I hope you do not think me too squeamish, but so long as I am in the position in which I am, endeavoring to the best of my ability to assist Mr. McCombs, to soothe the irritations he causes, to bolster up his authority etc. it seems to me that if anyone is to complain of his incapacity, it should not be I.

I feel this especially as I seem to be, to judge by the extracts from letters you sent me, the only person now in the mission who feels that Mr. McCombs's appointment here was a mistake. Per-

haps I may be magnifying trifles and may be too much influenced by a lack of personal congeniality. If so, time will show. And if I am right, and Mr. McCombe has not the cultivation & tact & finness of fibre necessary for a place like this, the consequent lowering of the tone of the school will ultimately make itself felt.

With regard to the extracts you quoted to me however, perhaps two things ought to be said. In the first place it seems to me that I have observed a remarkable eagerness on the part of the mission to be pleased with this appointment. I do not know the cause of this, but think I can hardly have mistaken the fact. It struck me from the first as if they were all a little anxious to reassure themselves on a point ~~of~~ in respect to which they nevertheless felt some inward misgiving. Then again, what opportunity have the missionaries of knowing the real inwardness of matters here? Their sources of information are only the ordinary gossip of an Indian hill station (which is beneath contempt), the reports of the children, & what Mr. & Mrs. McCombe themselves say. Now the children

(We have to read their letters before they are sent, so I know whereof I speak) often get the most extraordinarily garbled version even of events which take place in their presence. And of course many important matters are quite beyond their ken. Then too the opinions you quoted were written under an early date, when Mr. McCombs' administration was largely a matter of promise, rather than of performance. I am inclined to think that some of them might feel a little differently now.

My own position here is intensely difficult and embarrassing in many ways. If it were merely a question of living amicably under the same roof with the McCombs, it would be simple. But you see I am the only "old" teacher left now except Fräulein Soltau, who has never been much liked. The girls, therefore, naturally cling to me and manifest a good deal of school-girl devotion. But these same girls were warmly attached to the Misses Pirie and felt much aggrieved at the explosion which sent them away. Their partisanship takes the form of a defiant dislike of the McCombs and it is naturally hard for Mr.

Cont to believe that I am not responsible for this state of feeling on the part of girls who are much with me. I hope it is not necessary for me to say to you that I have done and do every day my strenuous best to prevent the girls from showing this feeling. I often hush them up and will not let them complain of Mr. McComb to me but they sometimes come to me in such boiling indignation that the torrent of their wrath will not be stopped till it has vented itself and I think that perhaps it is best that it should vent itself only to me, after all. The girls, as regards their feeling towards Mr. McComb may be divided into three groups. The younger ones are still a good deal afraid of him and I think this is their predominating feeling. A good many rather high-spirited, careless girls between 12 & 15 say, find that it is easy to dodge the rules this year and have no end of a "good time" and are consequently very well satisfied with the present order of things. Perhaps most of the missionary girls belong in this division. Nearly all the older girls, those in the examination classes, middle school, high school & F.A., have a strong dislike of him which the resp-

ten with the Pirics has greatly inflamed. As a teacher, they despise him utterly and it is impossible to make them speak respectfully of his classes. I think there are no missionary girls in any of these classes except Edith Kellogg (a day scholar) in the lowest of them, the middle school class.

Well, I am afraid I have said more than I meant to when I started out. I would not have said so much if I did not feel that it would be a mere affectation to attempt to conceal my opinion, now that you have already learned so much of it. As far as I am personally concerned, please understand that I do not make any complaint. If the Board and the Mission feel satisfied with the present arrangement, I shall simply try to make the best of it and hope that it may prove less damaging than I fear.

I hope you will not feel disappointed at my reluctance to enter more fully into this question. Perhaps it is the less necessary that I should do so, as you will be able to get at the facts you want through Miss Davis.

Please let me thank you for the kind and

sympathetic tone of your letter to me. It is some comfort, in the midst of sundry annoyances and perplexities to hope that you still retain some confidence in my sincerity and desire to do what is right and reasonable.

With kindest regards to both Mrs. Gillespie and yourself,

Yours very sincerely,

Alice Mitchell.

Ludhiana Mission.

NOTE:

By previous arrangement, the Council had a conference with Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Thorpe with reference to Woodstock, on Friday, Sept. 2nd, Dr. J. C. R. Ewing of India being present. A letter of Miss Morris, concerning the Seminary, dated July 6th., was considered, and also part of a letter of Mr. Mc Comb on the same subject, of July 27th.

After looking at the question on all sides, it was deemed best to do nothing for the present, but quietly to look around for a lady with the necessary qualifications for the headship of the School, and to send her not later than next year as a teacher to Woodstock, the understanding being that she would succeed the Principal when his furlough falls due in 1900.

This information must not be
Mrs. Sharpe on the 25th
pm

G

Mr Woodside says
there is a Govt mortgage
of 13,000 dupees on Wood
stock. which would pre-
vent the sale for any other
than school purposes.*

F F E.

Dec 24th

* We could sell by sacri
ficing amt of Mortgage.
Mr W thinks the Methodists
would ~~take~~ buy it for a
school

G

It has long been a matter of great concern to us Missionaries as to the decided Missionary influence exerted by Woodstock. While we think that a good work is being done and feel justified on this account, in remaining in it, yet we also know that more may be effected. The chief lack is a strong and efficient Missionary Staff. I have long abandoned the the idea that Missionary work can be done without true Christian agencies. You cannot evangelise with other than agressivi Christians. These should have the decided ascendancy in every Mission School. The weakness of our schools consists in our not coming up to the mark in this respect. Woodstock has two good lady teachers but not enough to overshadow the worldly influence which, do what we will, will creep in. We want more Missionary teachers. But we have been told that our Board cannot ~~supply more~~ supply more than two Missionary Teachers in addition to the Principle and his wife. This being regarded as a fact the Mission is looking around for some plan to increase the efficiency of the school without asking more of you, and at the same time enabling you to have practically the same or nearly the same control that you now have. A number of the Presbyterian bodies who do not feel able to start an entire School of their own, seem anxious to share the burden of educating the Eurasian and European Element with us. They would be willing to furnish a number of teachers, Missionary, and if you could merely give us two the School could run itself. From what I have seen, I believe that they would make no unreasonable requirements. All would be Presbyterians, and we hope that all would be Christians. They would be represented on the Board of Directors but we would see that we had a majority and I feel sure that the whole business can be settled satisfactorily, if you see your way clear to allow it. ~~We will~~ There is every reason to believe that our adherents will be greatly increased and that we may approximate to the real purpose of the School. We do not conceal the possibility of Friction but we scarcely think it ~~then~~ greater than what has been encountered by our own Missionaries. I do think that it is worthy of a trial, it is worth running some risk. The Mission has appointed a Committee to confer with other Presbyterian bodies in North India and we may soon be able to present details for your inspection and approval.

I would not have you think that I thus seek personal advancement or distinction. Carry out this plan. Put the School on the footing that it should, but to which it has never yet attained, and my resignation is ready if another and a better be ready to take my place. The School and its interests is what I now seek.

I have several other things to note but I cannot write and you cannot bear to hear

~~Hoping to consult principals of union.~~

Kindly let us hear from you as the principal of union.

Yours sincerely

L. McLeod

Woodstock, Landour. Mussoorie.
July. 6th 1898.

Dear Dr. Gillespie.

For months it has been on my mind to write you in regard to Woodstock, but I have put it off from time to time, lest I should write in a mood coloured by physical weakness and weariness, or give you impressions which were the results of first acquaintance only. But after four months of work here, in a comparatively fresh and free spirit I will attempt a letter. You may wonder why I need to be so careful as to when I write. Simply because I feel that Woodstock is in a very critical condition and I have very serious doubts, whether, if it can be made to approach no nearer its ideal, it is worth being continued.

I presume the question which would best open the subject is "What is the aim of Woodstock and how does it fulfill that aim?" I judge that its primary aim was to provide such a school for missionaries' children as should make it possible for them to remain a longer time in this country with their parents. How does it attempt to do this?

There is here a large school with a good building, large dormitories, good air, good climate. For the most part the children seem to suffer nothing physically.

Intellectually they are provided for by a staff of teachers which compares favorably with that of other Indian schools. Following the Code for Indian Education they are bound to books and courses which seem to me less rational and modern than in our home schools. The teachers are usually untrained except perhaps those who teach art and music. The method is the crane method. So much ground must be covered in so much time and the weakest goes to the wall as it is impossible to do more than just take the brightest ones over the ground. The primary classes have been under young teachers and usually under those who were not considered fit to do any higher work. Naturally, as I have primary teaching much at heart I consider such a course almost fatal to good results. One sees that this is so throughout the school for the children do everything by rule rather by understanding, are entirely lacking in ambition and have a most defiant attitude towards all form of instruction. As our mission children have often more ability than the others they fare less poorly than the rest and are able to learn in spite of difficulties. As the Indian system does not coincide with our own in America there are

some disadvantages to be overcome when they enter school at home. This would be a minor difficulty if the foundations were broad and well laid. As most of our children go home before they get the benefit of the better trained higher teachers, it is a question whether the school justifies its existence on the score of the educational it affords to mission children. And, moreover, they could have nearly, if not quite, as good intellectual opportunities in other schools in India.

As to the moral influences, I suppose that in all mission fields, the parents of children must deplore the low tone of moral sentiment with which their children come in contact. Immodesty, impurity of thought, word, and act, dishonesty, an utter lack of regard for law, slight regard for the rights of others, and so on, - abound. The Anglo-Indian element which is so strong in Mussoorie is steeped to the full in these characteristics. Consequently I have been shocked and startled by the frequency and force of their appearance in missionary children. Possibly a conversation I had with a missionary's daughter may illustrate. She had been very troublesome, both rude and definitely disobedient. I said to her afterwards. "A. do you not realize how wrong it is for you to persistently break the rules of the school in this way?" She replied "Why no, I see nothing wrong in it. If the teacher isn't strong enough to force me to obey, or if I choose to bear the punishment I do not see that it is any ones business but my own. I do not see that it is a matter of right and wrong, in the least." I said I was rather amazed to hear her say so but was afraid she was not alone in her opinion "I should think I am not alone; there may be one or two goody-goody girls (sneeringly) who think otherwise but I can assure you, that we all think we have a perfect right to break any and all rules we can get out of keeping. Yet this girl two years ago was considered to be really trying to live a Christian life. Sadly enough, she seems far from it now.

Crowded together as they are in large dormitories (not too much so for health) privacy of outward life is impossible and young girls are hardly able to realize the importance or the possibility of an inward privacy nor have they learned how to obtain it. Living in this way tends, too, to destroy modesty, though in this country it is not considered safe or wise for school children to have small dormitories with only one or two in each. As ab-trained children, as most of these are, like spoiled children everywhere, are peevish, fretful, petulant, disrespectful hard to control. I have never elsewhere been so impressed by

by ugly frowning faces, sulky looks, illtemper, childish impatience in grown girls and utter lack of respect for teachers. In America, a teacher expects respect, until she proves herself unworthy of it, and I find it very trying to my personal vanity (to say the least) to find that as a teacher I am not considered worthy of any more respect than any other paid servant unless, as in the case of obedience, I am able, against all odds, to compell it. This is the moral aspect of the case.

Most of the children come from homes where religion is vil or consists in attending once a month or once in two months, the service held by the visiting chaplain whose spirituality (to judge by the few chaplain's sermons I have heard) is about as deficient as their own. They despise the natives believing them utterly incapable of high character. They consider that the missionaries are poor dupes who cannot see how badly they are being fooled or ~~despised~~ them as, probably poor trash who have come to India to better their social positions. They lord it over the natives usually speaking to them as to dogs. They hate to go to church, Sunday School and Bible classes, counting them all alike equally irksome and useless. "I dont see why we should be forced to go to church just because we come here," expresses the general feeling.

All this cannot but react upon the missionary children. One mother said "My children are quite enthusiastic in their missionary efforts in the winter but their ardor quite cools during the school term. A missionary girl said "If I stay much longer in Woodstock, I shall lose all faith in everybody and everything." That the remark was unreasonable I know, but unfortunately the fact remains that she is drifting farther and farther away from the best in the school and from any hold the missionaries have had upon her.

But there are those who consider that the school is an evangelical agency looking toward the upbuilding of the Anglo Indian children. I think I have given already many indications of the need of this field. So needy is it indeed, that it seems useless, and more, harmful to send any but the best workers into ~~and~~ it; and so difficult that none but the strongest, spiritually, and indeed, in their whole make-up, should be sent into it.

Now what are we doing to accomplish our purpose, be it the one or the other? We have a staff of fourteen including Mr. & Mrs. McCoub, Miss Mitchell & myself. Of the principal you know that he was placed here because the mission were

at their wits ends to know what to do for Woodstock and had had considerable trouble in knowing just what to do with Mr McCoub. That he is a genuine Christian man I do not in the least doubt but that he has utterly failed to learn the least thing about the language would indicate a lack of ability which is quite discernible in other directions. Of the other teachers three have impressed themselves upon me as genuine Christians. One is the native Christian Urdu teacher who from her nationality would have but little influence. Another uses every ounce of strength in her classes and spends most of her spare time away from the school so has but little opportunity for direct Christian work. These two and a third are with us in C. Endeavor. For the rest we feel that their influence is against rather than for the best things, though they are, probably, for the most part church members. You will ask, Why not get better ones? Because teachers with a strong Christian personality combined with high educational acquirements are very rare in India. Therefore we long for workers from home. Of the right sort. If we had here a Mary Lyon or a Fidelia Fiske for principal and a force of teachers who were one in strong missionary purpose, we might feel that Woodstock would be worth while but as it is just now I feel sorry for every added year an American child must spend here and for every new child who comes.

It may possibly be that even so the school is better for many of these Indian children than their home surroundings, but so might other Hill schools be. The trouble is, this has a name of being a mission school and yet it is possible for girls to remain here for years and go away utterly indifferent to Christianity and unsympathetic to the spiritual life. We are not a strong enough force to create a markedly Christian atmosphere and until that is done I feel that Woodstock does not justify its existence.

There is much in the situation that I feel to be wrong. Discipline is lax, so lax that the children like the school better than ever before as all the irksomeness of a strict rule is lacking. Yet their pleasure and approval is purchased dear. I do not believe in many rules but I believe in such as there are, being enforced. Mr. McCoub has not failed to do any thing in the way of discipline which I have asked him this year and yet all the time one feels conscious of a lack, — the lack of a strong ruling personality. Here the head makes no impression upon the whole. Mr. McC is not a head. There really is no head to the school. We each do as best we know how, trying not to interfere with anyone else

I can not tell you how strongly I feel the need of a change here. We do need a principal who is willing to make this a life work and who, by hook or by crook, will gather around herself a strong force of earnest Christian teachers. Such a leader would need to be pre-eminently a leader, not a driver and I consider true culture an absolute necessity here, for if we get respect at all it must be by commanding it. Three things count against us, we are teachers, missionaries, Americans (It will be some time before the cordial sympathy of England's own people will make its appearance in her colonies) To offset these we must have such personal characteristics as to gain respect and confidence. This must be specially true of the principal.

Now what can you do to help us? I go home after next year's term and Mr. McComb's furlough is due at the same time. Miss Mitchell does not feel herself equal to the principalship, were she never so well supported. Mr. McC. I think would be willing to stay, perhaps indefinitely, but is it, can it be, the right thing for the school? I imagine that the school is quite prosperous, as much so at least, as ever, and certainly the buildings are kept in good repair, and Mrs. McComb sees to it that the correspondence, accounts and so on are well done. I know ~~absolutely~~ ~~know~~ nothing, except about my own department as I have never been included in any consultations, or rather I should say there never are held any consultations concerning school matters. There were eight teachers three years ago who had received either English or American education. Now practically there are less than three Mrs. McComb teaches one class in Bible and Mr. McComb two in Bible and one in Logic and that is all for the two, and from the nature of the case neither of them come much in contact with the girls directly, Mr. McC. being a man and Mrs. McComb having most of the duties of principal to fill her time. Miss Mitchell and I are left and many a time we mourn the physical limitations which make it impossible to teach & control five and six hours of the day, and then be fresh and strong to exert direct and active efforts toward helping the girls heavenward.

I hope I have not wearied you with this long letter but I have felt for some time that I could not rest until I had relieved my mind of the feeling that Woodstock must be made or else it will be of no use at all in spiritual lines.

Very sincerely yours

Emma Weaver

P.S. I think I can say that Miss Mitchell is in full sympathy with the views I have expressed here.

1896 - 97

Appropriated	$2,115.	Rs 924 +	Rs 1366 to B'ds credit

No account from Gwalior yet.

97 - 98

Appropriated	Gold $2,610.	Rs ~~924~~	Rs 6,195.

Woodstock

Appropriated - 1874-95 - $1,522.83 Sold on our sheets -

Appropriation on Mr Raymond's books $1306.99
disbursed " " " " 1306.99

There was special appropriation was made during the year and on that was saved $205.83

Cost $1101.16

1895 – 1896

	Gold	Rs	to B'ds credit
Appropriated on our books –	$1,560.	924	Rs 2674

Under Raymond's book –

Appr.	1485. gold	Less school	
disbursed	1620. —	receipts	748.72
		net disbursements	871.28
		Savings	613.72

Cost $871.28

Statement of Miss Giddings, June 4th., 1897 with reference to Woodstock School, India.

Receipts for tuition: The children of missionaries pay fifteen rupees (Rs. 15) per month for board. Nothing for English tuition, nothing for music, painting or drawing.

Missionaries' children not connected with the School have free tuition in accomplishments. Other pupils pay twenty rupees (Rs.20) a month for board, ten rupees (Rs. 10) for English tuition, ten (10) for music and painting, and six (6) for drawing.

A year and a half ago the Board of Directors voted to charge children of missionaries twenty rupees (Rs. 20) a month for board. This was done for one year. Then the Directors voted to go back to fifteen rupees a month.

In regard to the rules: The self-reporting system has been carried out since the time the school was bought by the Mission, and it was voted at the end of last school year to abolish that system, and also almost all the rules and regulations of the school. This was approved of by the missionaries, but not by the teachers in the school, missionary and otherwise.

Clifton Springs

RECEIVED
AUG 30 1907
DR. GILLESPIE

N. Y. Aug. 28th

My dear Dr. Gillespie,

I found on arriving in New York that some arrangements had been made for me to come there. They thought it would be better to come at once without going home. I suppose it was best as I am still very weak.

When I got here, I was told that the only room vacant was the room kept by the Ladies

Board. I feel badly about this for they do not of course know that I am occupying it. I feel like some one who is in a house where she had come without invitation. Will you let me know at once what I ought to do.

I am much better than when I left India in the matter of general health; the first cause of my breaking down has not been lessened and I am utterly unfit to do anything. This together with the fact that I now have

no home to go to, my people not dreaming that I was coming home have just taken up housekeeping, makes me anxious to stay here if possible where I can be quiet and have treatment. I am so nervous, weary and unfit for any thing that I dread living with well people. I do not like to be a mean of grace to other people for the sake of teaching them patience.

I had a very comfortable voyage in the Mobile, though I had to spend most of the time in my berth. The cabins are

all on deck and the air good
during
I was not at all seasick the
Atlantic voyage. One of my
nest friends was in the same
cabin so I was most for-
tunate. I have, indeed, been
most fortunate all the way.
Mr. Lucas's kindness and
thoughtfulness I never
can repay, but I certainly
have a great debt of kind-
ness to pay someone,
I can only pass it on, for
I can never repay those who have
given it
wanted very much to
see you about Woodslots
and dislike to write dis-
agreeable things. It is,
however, in very bad shape
and Miss Mitchell's posi-
tion is not an enviable
one. She, like myself,

difficulties to write much but
she hoped I might be
able to see you and tell
you. I told Mr. Fairchild
some of the facts. I would
have preferred to tell you
but from the questions he
asked I saw he already
had heard that there
was some trouble and
also that Miss Mitchell
was very much worried
as to what she should
do. I am thankful that
there is someone there
who has so much tact
and patience, otherwise
there would be an empty
as she has,
as she
or would have been long
ago. We both felt it wise
to go on quietly until

others realized something was wrong. You see there has always been someone at Woodstock dissatisfied with the management. Since I have been there I feel that every complaint up until this year was due to jealousy. But the only method of complaint was the one that has been so long used by jealousy, - talking and writing use. How could anyone tell that the cause was the same if Miss Mitchell and myself talked. We felt it would be useless.

Two of the best teachers have had to resign. These two with Miss Mitchell and myself have tried to make the best of things and do the best under the circumstances for the girls. No one who really cares is left now among the teachers save Miss Mitchell. I wish I could see you! All this made it so much harder for me to leave the girls at Woodstock, especially the ones I have been teaching the last three years. No one else can ever know them so well or care so much for them as I for they will be leaving shortly. Did I not believe that

God plans all our lives I would feel that some evil power had been shaping my plans lately. I believe though that He never removes us violently, if I may use the expression, pulls us up by the roots as it were, without some wise purpose for our loved ones as well as for ourselves, and my going away will work for the good of these girls in a way my presence could not.

May I not hope to hear from you soon.

I hope your vacation rest has given you much health and comfort.

Yours very sincerely
Margaret C Davis.

Minute of interview with Miss Davis concerning Woodstock.

Miss Davis was at first a little reluctant to make any statements regarding Woodstock, but came to be rather communicative before the interview ended. She represents that the school is in a process of degeneration under Mr. and Mrs. Mc Comb's administration. He takes the whole direction of affairs into his hands and changes the arrangement of classes as well as other matters without consultation with Miss Mitchell or herself. His personal rudeness to two Scotch teachers whom Miss Giddings had secured as a great prize in the Board of Instructors, has led to their resignation. He is personally rude to Miss Mitchell and Miss Riley. Miss Mitchell questions whether she will be able to continue in the school under the circumstances. Parents are withdrawing their children from the school because of the disorganized tone of the institution. There is no discipline. Mr. MC. Comb was hissed by the girls in the dining room. Besides a general warning against the repetition of so grievous an offense, no punishment was inflicted upon any one. Miss Mitchell and Miss Davis have been very unwilling to talk about the condition of the school because of the frequent controversies which have arisen between teachers and superintendent, but Miss Davis communicated to Mrs. Kelso one of the Board of Directors many facts shortly before she left. She has also talked freely with Mr. Lucas on the journey home.

RECEIVED
MAY 24 1897
DR. GILLESPIE.

73 Merrick St.
Worcester, Mass.
May 22nd 97.

My dear Dr. Gillespie;-

I was just on the point of replying to your letter of the 19th when the one of the 21st was received.

I hope to be able to go to New York before June first and will write you as soon as possible just what day I can be there.

I thank you for the kind invitation to spend a night

at your home and shall be very glad to do so.

I also thank you very sincerely for the kind tone of your letter in reply to my two questions.

Yes, the Board of Directors did make terms to which I could not agree, nor do I think you would wish me to do so if you understood the circumstances. I was not sure whether that alone would sever my connection with the Board, or I thought it best to ask the question

that would let me know how the matter is understood at New York - I certainly did not feel that I ought to accept another position without consulting you.

Of course I do not wish to return to India until I have had the time for rest to which I am entitled, nor do I want the Board of Directors to be asked if they wish me to return - The question of working under some one would require no thought on my part, provided if I could feel that the school would be managed

wisely. People forget that India is not America.

Although I consider the question of my return under the Presbyterian Board as settled, my interest in the work is the same and will always be. Possibly my going to N. York may be of some assistance to the ladies who are still there.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

E. C. Giddings.